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MINERAL POINT

MINING COMPANY.

(1863)

REPORTS

BY

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PROFESSOR GEORGE I. CHACE

AND

DR. CHARLES T. JACKSON.

NOVEMBER, 1863.

BOSTON:

PRESS OF GEO. C. RAND & AVERY, No. 3 CORNHILL.

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THE MINERAL POINT MINE.

THE property which is the subject of the accompanying Report was purchased in April last, with the understanding on the part of the purchaser, that he was acquiring a title to the bulk of the lead veins situated in the county of St. Lawrence, and this, no doubt, is substantially true. In addition to the veins mentioned in the Report, there are several others whose surface indications are good, which have been reported to the undersigned, but on which no work has as yet been done; and besides these, there is reason to believe that there exist numerous others, and in particular one other of great width and thickness, which is in the knowledge of a resident of the county, who has, up to the present time, refused to make known its whereabouts. Every exertion has been made to ascertain from this party its locality, but without success. There is no doubt it will eventually be discovered to the owners.

The Mineral Point Mine proper promises to prove of great value. The statement referred to in the Report, as having been made by Mr. John Canfield, is undoubtedly correct, as it has been verified by the statements of other and reliable persons, having no interest in the property. Its location being situate not exceeding three hundred yards from Black Lake, navigable to small steamers and flat-boats, renders it easy of access.

The shaft is sunk immediately at the foot of a bluff, which rises perpendicularly almost sixty feet in height.

The course of the vein from the top to the foot of the bluff is plainly discernible to one standing at the base, and is very richly charged with galena for the entire distance. By running

a drift into the vein at the foot of the bluff, a vast amount of ore can be stoped out, without going to the expense of sinking any more shafts, and without any necessity for pumps to free it of water.

In September last, the water was taken from the shaft, and it was found as stated to be in the Report. At the bottom of the shaft about one hundred pounds of ore was taken from a cross section of the vein, with a view to obtain an average of the ore. Upon being brought to the surface, it was found to be extremely rich, being nearly one-half galena; the box containing the same is now in my possession, and is open for inspection. This, I am informed, was taken from the vein in the presence of Professors Jackson and Chace, who at the time were satisfied that it was a fair average of the vein as disclosed by the shaft and the drifts mentioned in the Report. An examination of the ore will satisfy the most incredulous of the intrinsic value of the Mineral Point Mine.

We are now making new openings on the Gardner farm, with the view to ascertain the extent of the vein of barytes, mentioned in the Report; and the indications are good that it will be found to be extensive. Should it so prove, it will be of great value, inasmuch as the barytes found is of the purest and finest quality.

The number of veins in the property is so large that it would be well to dispose of some of them, as no one company would ever be able to work them all; and I would therefore suggest that, as soon as a company is organized, which shall acquire the title to this property, a full survey be made, and such veins as the company may not think best to work be sold, the proceeds of sale to be distributed as dividends to its stockholders.

From the foregoing, it will be seen that the property mentioned is of great extent, and promises to be of great value.

S. B. SMITH.

REPORT OF JOHN CANFIELD, ESQ.

Sackett's Harbor, May 7, 1863.

Mr. Samuel B. Smith.

Dear Sir: — I arrived home this morning, 10 o'clock, A. M., all right. I will give you a description of Mineral Point as near as I can. I commenced work, in 1837, near the lake shore; sunk down about ten feet, found lead most of the way, employed a surveyor, run my line northeasterly course to the summit of the first hill; broke ground and found lead; continued my course over the hill, through the low land, to the next rise of ground; broke ground on the line, and there found lead; continued across the hill in the same direction, through another low piece of land to the summit of the third hill; broke ground and raised several hundred pounds of lead. This line of survey is about one half mile in length. Sunk a shaft on the back side of the first hill about sixty feet; drifted into the hill from the shaft, — do not recollect the distance; raised, in sinking the shaft and driving the drift, ore enough to smelt (60) sixty tons of lead.

I think at one point in the shaft it showed three feet wide. North of the same line, men have brought me lead, claiming it was a better vein of lead, but wanted one thousand dollars to show the location. The land is situated on the shores of Black Lake, and is navigable for steam or sail to Henvelton, seven miles from Ogdensburgh.

Yours very respectfully,

JOHN CANFIELD.

REPORTS OF DR. C. T. JACKSON AND PROF. GEORGE I. CHACE.

S. B. Smith, Esq.

Dear Sir: We have recently visited and examined the Mineral Point Lead Mine, situated in the township of Macomb, N. Y., near the south shore of Black Lake, and have now to report.

HISTORY OF THE MINE.

This mine is said to have been opened in 1837, by Mr. John Canfield, who states that he traced the vein for the distance of half a mile, and opened it near Black Lake, and also sunk a shaft upon it, at the place where the present reopening is now taking place.

The shaft is sixty feet deep, and two short levels were run from it in opposite directions on the course of the vein. The ore raised and sold is stated to have produced, when smelted, sixty tons of pig lead. This ore was smelted at the Rossie smelting works, which are now no longer in operation.

EXAMINATION OF THE MINE.

We found the shaft above-named to be as Mr. Canfield had described it. The vein is in calcareous spar, and is rich in galena. The rocks in which the vein exists are of the metamorphic series, and probably are of the age of the Potsdam sandstone.

At the northwesterly part of the present excavations, a "horse," or mass of barren rock, divides the main vein into two branches, one of which is one foot wide, and the other fifteen inches; but just beyond this "horse" the vein reunites, and is three feet wide.

The general course of the vein is N. 63° W., S. 63° E., and its dip is eighty degrees and to the southward. It is therefore parallel to the Clute and the Macomb veins, and they all belong to the same system, and are undoubtedly of the same geological age.

On measuring the width of the vein, at seven different points in the shaft and levels, we found the mean width to be two feet four inches, the extremes being three feet four inches, and one foot seven inches.

Samples were broken from all parts of the exposed surface of the vein, in the shaft and levels, and they were quite rich in galena, the whole forming an excellent working lead ore.

AREA OF LAND.

We are informed that your Company own one hundred and twenty-one acres of this mineral land in fee simple, and the mining rights on about six thousand acres more. Much of this land is covered with forest trees, and will furnish an ample supply of timber for the mines, and fuel for the smelting furnaces.

TRANSPORTATION OF THE LEAD TO MARKET.

It is proposed to have the lead ore from this mine smelted on the premises, and to send the metal to market, by the way of Black Lake, to Edwardsville and Morristown, whence it may be sent by a continuous water communication to New York.

OTHER VEINS OF GALENA.

We have also examined several other veins of galena, belonging to your Company, and a vein of sulphate of barytes, all of which are in the township of Macomb.

GALENA ON THE HARDY FARM.

On this farm, we examined a small but rich vein of galena, which is associated with brown blende, and is contained in

a gangue of calcareous spar, included in granular magnesian limestone. It is four inches wide, and has been opened to the depth of eight feet.

Both these veins belong to the same system of fractures as the Macomb, Clute, and Mineral Point, and though not yet proved of sufficient value to justify us in pronouncing them workable, they do add to the evidence, in proving Macomb to be a lead-bearing region.

It is possible that some of these small and poorer veins may prove rich at lower levels, and it may be worth while to open them to settle the question.

SULPHATE OF BARYTES.

On the Gardner Farm, a vein of very pure white crystalline sulphate of barytes, one foot in width, has been discovered. On examination, we found it to be quite irregular, so that no just estimate could be made of the value of the locality.

More extensive openings may disclose larger deposits; and it may be advisable to make further search for this beautiful mineral, since it is desirable in the preparation of cheap white paint, by mixing it with white lead.

Respectfully yours,

CHARLES T. JACKSON,
GEORGE I. CHACE.

Macomb, N. Y., Sept. 22, 1863.

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